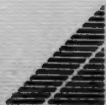
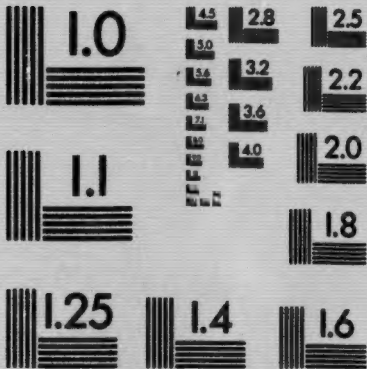


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The Case

OF

The County of Russell

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THE CASE OF THE
Electors of the County of Russell
Against the Proposal to
Deprive Them of Parliamentary
Representation

**BY WIPING THEIR COUNTY OFF THE
ELECTORAL MAP OF ONTARIO**

In the month of February, 1914, a Special Committee of the House of Commons was appointed for the purpose of arranging the Parliamentary Representation of the Dominion in accordance with the Census of 1911.

Speaking in support of the motion to appoint the Special Committee, the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable R. L. Borden, laid down three principles to govern the re-distribution of seats, namely, the preserving of county boundaries, equality of population, and a larger unit of representation for urban than for rural constituencies. He added that where any two of these would conflict, it then became a question which should govern.

It is respectfully submitted that in the case of the County of Russell the three principles laid down by the Right Honourable Mr. Borden furnish adequate reasons for leaving its pre-

sent boundaries undisturbed. Although such is the fact, a proposal has been made to the Redistribution Committee to wipe the County of Russell off the electoral map of Ontario. Against that proposal the electors of Russell desire to enter their emphatic and vigorous protest.

Some Facts about Russell

There are six townships in the County of Russell, namely, Clarence, Cambridge, Cumberland, Russell, Gloucester and Osgoode. These townships have been in the County of Russell since the year 1798.

Then, as now, the northern boundary of the county was the Ottawa River, and its western boundary the Rideau River.

Then, as now, its eastern boundary was the County of Prescott, and its southern boundary parts of Stormont and Dundas.

In 1798, D. G. Smith, Acting Surveyor-General of Upper Canada, published a Map showing the Townships and Boundaries of Russell to be as above stated.

In 1816 an Act was passed constituting the Counties of Russell and Prescott a district, under the name of the District of Ottawa. By that Act the six townships above-mentioned were retained in the County of Russell, and Prescott and Russell were joined for judicial purposes.

In 1837-38 an Act was passed creating the new district of Dalhousie. By this Act it was provided that the Townships of Osgoode and Gloucester should continue to pay their assessments to the Treasurer of the District of Ottawa until the population should increase to 7,500. After that figure was reached by the District of Ottawa, the assessments of Osgoode and Gloucester are understood to have been paid to the District of Dalhousie, and in this way the Townships of Osgoode and Gloucester in the course of time became connected for Municipal purposes

with the County of Carleton, which was included in the District of Dalhousie. But at no time were Osgoode and Gloucester separated from Russell for electoral purposes.

In 1867 the British North America Act continued the County of Russell with its six townships as they existed in 1798. The several Redistribution Acts of 1872, 1882, 1892 and 1903 followed the British North America Act in leaving the townships and boundaries of Russell undisturbed.

New 'inburgh'

It is true that about twenty-five years ago New Edinburgh, which forms part of the Township of Gloucester, was attached to the City of Ottawa for Municipal purposes and has since been known as Rideau Ward. But in the Redistribution of 1892 and again in 1903 it was retained in Gloucester for electoral purposes and it still remains there.

A Word about Carleton

In contrast with the unbroken continuity of Russell, it may be pointed out that in 1798—when Russell stood precisely as it stands to-day—the County of Carleton, as we know it, did not exist.

Down to the time of the Union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, the territory now comprising Carleton County was attached to the surrounding districts and had no separate Municipal existence. In fact, Carleton was not organized for Municipal purposes until the end of the year 1842, so that it was several years after that date before the condition arose under which the assessments of Osgoode and Gloucester were first paid to the Municipal Council of Carleton.

Russell of To-day

From the historical point of view, therefore, the record is altogether in favor of the claim that Russell should be con-

tinued as a County and that its original boundaries should be preserved. An examination of that claim on other grounds makes the case absolutely unanswerable.

According to the Census of 1911 Russell is the largest County in the Eastern part of Ontario. Here are the figures:—

Russell	-	-	39,434
Carleton	-	-	28,406
Prescott	-	-	26,968
Stormont	-	-	24,775
Glengarry	-	-	21,259
South Lanark	-	-	19,751
Brockville	-	-	18,531
Leeds	-	-	18,222
Dundas	-	-	18,165
Grenville	-	-	17,545
North Lanark	-	-	14,627

Speaking in round numbers the unit of representation is 30,000. The population of Russell is 39,434. It has, therefore, about 9,000 more people than are required to entitle it to Parliamentary representation. Yet, it is proposed to destroy that representation, while two neighbouring Counties to the South, whose respective populations are 12,000 and 13,000 below the unit of representation are to have their electoral status preserved. Obviously such a proposal is condemned by every principle of law and justice.

In other parts of the Province where small Counties adjoin each other, and their individual populations are below the unit, it is proposed to merge them and form one large County. But this rule is to be violated in the case of Russell. Why make it the exception?

How the Gerry-mander Works

To bring about the dismemberment of Russell, a beginning is to be made at the Easterly end of Prescott County. The

Townships of East and West Hawkesbury, which include Hawkesbury Town and Vankleek Hill, are to be taken from Prescott and added to Glengarry.

Next, the Townships of Clarence, Cambridge, Cumberland and Russell, which include the Town of Rockland and Casselman Village, are to be taken from Russell and added to Prescott County.

Of the remaining portions of Russell County, New Edinburgh is to be added to East Ottawa, and the Townships of Osgoode and Gloucester, the latter including the Town of Eastview, are to be added to Carleton County.

As to this scheme it may be remarked in the first place that it violates Mr. Borden's principle of preserving County and Judicial boundaries, by taking East and West Hawkesbury, Hawkesbury Town and Vankleek Hill out of the judicial territory to which they have been attached since 1816. In the second place it will produce anomalies of population which of themselves are sufficient to condemn the scheme.

A glance at the figures of the proposed gerrymander will be illuminating.

Thus, the population of Glengarry, after East and West Hawkesbury, Hawkesbury Town and Vankleek Hill are added to it will be - - - - - 33,126

The population of Prescott, after deducting East and West Hawkesbury, Hawkesbury Town and Vankleek Hill, and adding Clarence, Cambridge, Cumberland, Russell, Rockland and Casselman, will be - - - 36,750

The population of East Ottawa, after adding New Edinburgh, will be by Wards :—

Rideau Ward	-	-	-	2,943
By Ward	-	-	-	7,632
Ottawa Ward	-	-	-	10,026
St. George's Ward	-	-	-	10,581

Or a total of - - 31,182

The population of Carleton, after adding Osgoode, Gloucester and Eastview, and deducting New Edinburgh, will be - - - - - 43,248

The foregoing results make it clear that the population of Russell is to be scattered around without any regard to the unit of representation. In the case of Glengarry, the population is to be raised about 3,000 above the unit. Prescott, which has in its present territory a population sufficiently numerous to entitle it to one member, is to have that population raised to 6,000 above the unit. And Carleton, whose population to-day must equal the unit of representation, is to have its numbers increased to about 13,000 above the unit. There is no argument that can be invoked to justify such tactics.

Other Results

But there would be other results produced which cannot be expressed in figures and which are more objectionable than any hitherto mentioned. One of these will be the "hiving" of the French-Canadian Electors in the new County of Prescott. To this, the French-Canadians are strenuously opposed, and their English fellow-electors are in full sympathy with them. To separate the French and the English in the way proposed, will be to deal a blow at Canadian National Unity. And almost as great injury will be wrought, if, by wiping out Russell, the arrangement between its people is destroyed, whereby an English-speaking person has represented the County in the House of Commons and a French-speaking person in the Provincial Legislature at Toronto. It is incredible that any Minister or Government will invite such results.

False Arguments Answered

An excuse that has been offered for the wiping out of Russell is that by merging North and South Lanark, the Conservatives are losing a seat, and that by merging Leeds and Brockville they are losing another seat. This excuse implies that all four Ridings have been consistently and safely Conservative. Such is not the fact.

In the case of North Lanark, there have been 5 elections since 1896. Of these, the Liberals won the election of 1904. In 1900 the Conservatives won, after a recount, by 7 votes. In 1908 there was another recount and the Conservatives won by 6 votes. North Lanark, therefore, cannot truthfully be described as a safe seat for either party.

In the case of Brockville there have been 7 elections since 1896. Of these the Liberals won 4 and the Conservatives 3. In view of this record, Brockville cannot truthfully be described as a Conservative seat.

Nor is the argument drawn from the merging of other counties in other parts of Ontario any more sound. In every instance the counties so merged have small populations and nothing else could be done. But the very reverse is the case in Russell, with its large population of 39,434. That population makes it one of the largest rural constituencies in Ontario.

Conclusion

It has been pointed out to members of the Redistribution Committee that by leaving Russell untouched a perfectly fair readjustment of seats can be made in the eastern part of Ontario. As the working out of details is in the hands of the Committee, it is not intended to discuss them in this presentation of their case by the people of Russell, who desire to preserve their own political identity. But it may be added that the suggestions made to members of the Committee do not ex-

haust the methods by which a redistribution can be effected in Eastern Ontario which will work no injustice and will give no advantage to either political party.

Up to the present time the only reason advanced for wiping Russell off the Electoral Map of Ontario is that some person or persons advised that such should be done. To act on such advice in view of the facts herein set forth would be to commit a political crime which the people of Russell do not believe the Right Honourable Mr. Borden or the majority of his Government wish to have laid at their doors.

RUSSELL,

March 23rd, 1914.